

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington 25, D. C.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER 1957

Consumer prices in U.S. cities advanced 0.1 percent between August and September 1957, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Higher prices for housing, apparel, and most other major groups of goods and services more than offset substantial reductions in food prices. Prices of commodities other than foods as well as services each rose an average of 0.4 percent during the month. The Consumer Price Index, advancing to its 13th consecutive record high, was at 121.1 (1947-49=100), 3.4 percent higher than a year ago.

FOOD Food prices dropped 0.8 percent between August and September as more plentiful supplies of fresh produce became available. This is the first month since last March in which food prices have declined. The September food price index, at 117.0 percent of the 1947-49 average, was 3.4 percent higher than a year ago.

Prices of fresh fruits fell 8.7 percent, due primarily to sharp reductions in prices of apples, as the beginning of the autumn harvest replenished depleted supplies. Prices of bananas and grapes also were lower, but orange prices advanced. Fresh vegetable prices dropped 7.5 percent, with lower prices for most items in the group, especially lettuce, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, tomatoes, and onions. Prices of processed fruits and vegetables showed little change on the average and the decline for the fruits and vegetables group as a whole averaged 5.4 percent.

The decline of 1.4 percent in average prices of meats, poultry, and fish resulted primarily from lower prices for frying chickens (down 5.8 percent) and for all cuts of pork; prices of bacon fell 2.4 percent, ham 3.4 percent, and pork chops 2.3 percent. Beef and veal prices were 0.4 percent higher on the average, due to a rise of 2.0 percent in prices of chuck roast.

Prices of dairy products registered their largest monthly advance since July 1954, as fresh milk prices rose in half the cities surveyed in September. Egg prices advanced 8.9 percent to a national average of 65 cents a dozen. Prices of coffee dropped 3.4 percent. Lunches in restaurants were 0.5 percent higher than last month.

HOUSING The advance of 0.5 percent in the housing index resulted from higher prices in all its component subgroups. Housefurnishings prices registered their largest monthly increase since February 1957, as higher prices were reported for kitchenware, household textiles, and some appliances. Residential rents were up 0.2 percent and costs of home repairs and maintenance advanced 0.4 percent. The rise of 0.8 percent in prices of solid fuels and fuel oil resulted from seasonal price increases for anthracite and bituminous coal. Gas and electricity averaged 0.4 percent higher, due to increased bills for gas.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES Apparel prices rose 0.7 percent, primarily because fall and winter clothing (especially women's and girls') returned to the market at prices higher than the end-of-season sale prices. Women's and girls' wool coats, women's wool dresses, girls' wool skirts, and men's wool suits and sweaters had higher price tags.

The advance of 0.6 percent in the reading and recreation group resulted from higher prices for newspapers, toys, and movie admissions. Higher fees for group hospitalization insurance and for professional services were the major factors in the rise of 0.3 percent in costs of medical care.

Total transportation was unchanged on the average as transit fares advanced in a few cities and private transportation costs declined 0.1 percent; further reductions in dealers' prices of new automobiles (down 1.3 percent) more than offset higher prices of used cars, tires, gasoline, and increased automobile insurance rates.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index--United States city average, all items and special groups
Indexes and percent changes for selected dates

Group	Indexes (1947-49=100)					
	Sept. 1957	Aug. 1957	July 1957	Sept. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----	121.1	121.0	120.8	117.1	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	123.4	123.0	122.8	119.4	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	118.7	118.7	118.5	114.8	100.7	55.4
*All commodities-----	114.5	114.6	114.4	111.0	100.3	51.6
*All commodities less food-----	112.6	112.1	112.2	109.4	99.4	59.4
*Durables-----	108.6	108.4	108.2	104.8	102.4	57.3
*Nondurables-----	116.7	116.0	116.3	113.9	99.0	58.7
*All services-----	138.8	138.3	137.9	133.6	107.9	80.4
*All services less rent-----	139.8	139.3	138.9	134.1	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to September 1957 from--					
	Aug. 1957	July 1957	Sept. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items-----	0.1	0.2	3.4	19.0	103.9	
All items less food-----	.3	.5	3.4	19.8	78.6	
All items less shelter-----	0	.2	3.4	17.9	114.3	
All commodities-----	-.1	.1	3.2	14.2	121.9	
All commodities less food-----	.4	.4	2.9	13.3	89.6	
Durables-----	.2	.4	3.6	6.1	89.5	
Nondurables-----	.6	.3	2.5	17.9	98.8	
All services-----	.4	.7	3.9	28.6	72.6	
All services less rent-----	.4	.6	4.3	30.7	90.2	
	(1947-49=\$1.00)**					
	Sept. 1957	Aug. 1957	July 1957	Sept. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar--	\$0.83	\$0.83	\$0.83	\$0.85	\$0.98	\$1.68

* These indexes have been revised to reflect changes in the classification of items included in Shelter. See Table A (p. 6-a) for explanation and complete table of revised index numbers.

** To calculate purchasing power of the consumer dollar on any other base, divide the index for the desired base date by the index for the comparison date.

TABLE 2: Consumer Price Index -- United States city average, all items and commodity groups
Indexes and percent changes for selected dates

Group	Indexes (1947-49=100)					
	September 1957	August 1957	July 1957	September 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	121.1	121.0	120.8	117.1	101.8	59.4
Food 1/ -----	117.0	117.9	117.4	113.1	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	115.5	116.6	116.1	111.7	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	131.2	131.0	130.8	126.6	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	110.3	111.9	109.5	101.3	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	113.1	111.5	110.5	109.8	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	114.8	121.3	126.9	114.8	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	115.0	113.8	111.7	115.4	94.1	48.4
Food away from home -----	117.0	117.9	117.4	113.1	100.5	47.1
Housing 2/ -----	126.3	125.7	125.5	122.5	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	135.7	135.4	135.2	133.4	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	113.7	113.3	112.3	112.2	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	136.8	135.7	135.9	130.5	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.8	103.9	104.1	103.3	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	128.3	128.0	127.9	123.7	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	107.3	106.6	106.5	106.5	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	109.3	108.8	108.8	108.3	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	99.8	98.6	98.6	99.6	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	128.1	128.3	128.1	126.0	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	92.3	92.0	91.9	92.0	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	135.9	135.9	135.8	128.6	109.9	70.2
Public -----	181.1	180.6	180.2	173.0	117.9	81.3
Private -----	125.5	125.6	125.6	116.7	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	139.0	138.6	138.4	134.0	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	125.1	124.9	124.7	120.5	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	113.3	112.6	112.4	108.4	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services 3/ -----	126.7	126.7	126.6	122.7	103.7	70.6

Group	Percent change to September 1957 from:				
	August 1957	July 1957	September 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.1	0.2	3.4	19.0	103.9
Food -----	-.8	-.3	3.4	16.4	118.4
Food at home -----	-.9	-.5	3.4	14.9	115.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	.2	.3	3.6	27.8	129.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-1.4	.7	8.9	4.0	165.1
Dairy products -----	1.4	2.4	3.0	22.5	127.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	-5.4	-9.5	0	12.0	147.9
Other foods at home -----	1.1	3.0	-.3	22.2	137.6
Food away from home -----	.5	.9	4.2	(4/)	(4/)
Housing 2/ -----	.5	.6	3.1	20.4	66.0
Rent -----	.2	.4	1.7	24.8	56.7
Gas and electricity -----	.4	1.2	1.3	10.7	8.4
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	.8	.7	4.8	27.1	142.6
Housefurnishings -----	.9	.7	1.5	7.6	96.3
Household operation -----	.2	.3	3.7	28.8	87.6
Apparel -----	.7	.8	.8	11.2	104.4
Men's and boys' -----	.5	.5	.9	11.4	115.2
Women's and girls' -----	1.2	1.2	.2	7.0	83.1
Footwear -----	-.2	0	1.7	25.5	154.7
Other apparel -----	.3	.4	.3	4.4	127.3
Transportation -----	0	.1	5.7	23.7	93.6
Public -----	.3	.5	4.7	53.6	122.8
Private -----	-.1	-.1	5.7	17.7	91.6
Medical care -----	.3	.4	3.7	31.9	91.5
Personal care -----	.2	.3	3.8	26.1	109.9
Reading and recreation -----	.6	.8	4.5	10.5	79.8
Other goods and services 3/ -----	0	.1	3.3	22.2	79.5

1/ Includes restaurant meals not shown separately.
 2/ Includes home purchase and other home-owner costs not shown separately.
 3/ Includes tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and "miscellaneous services" (such as legal services, banking fees, burial services, etc.).
 4/ Not available.

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index — All items indexes for selected dates
U.S. city average and 20 large cities
(1947-49=100)

City	September 1957	August 1957	September 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average	1/ 121.1	121.0	117.1	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly 2/					
Chicago	124.3	124.1	120.3	102.8	58.6
Detroit	122.8	123.0	119.7	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles	122.0	121.2	117.8	101.3	60.4
New York	118.3	118.7	115.1	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia	121.9	121.6	118.4	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 3/	September 1957	June 1957	September 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Atlanta	122.2	121.2	118.9	4/ 101.3	58.3
Baltimore	121.7	121.2	117.5	101.6	57.9
Cincinnati	120.9	119.7	117.1	101.2	58.4
St. Louis	122.1	121.3	118.1	101.1	59.3
San Francisco	123.5	122.8	119.0	100.9	58.6
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 3/	August 1957	May 1957	August 1956	May 1950	Year 1939
Cleveland	122.8	121.7	119.1	100.4	59.2
Houston	122.1	121.1	118.2	103.5	59.5
Scranton	117.8	116.4	113.5	100.2	58.5
Seattle	123.7	122.8	118.8	102.0	59.2
Washington, D. C.	119.1	117.2	115.7	101.6	60.4
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 3/	July 1957	April 1957	July 1956	April 1950	Year 1939
Boston	122.1	120.2	117.8	101.2	61.0
Kansas City	121.7	120.4	117.6	101.4	61.7
Minneapolis	121.6	119.8	117.7	5/ 102.1	60.7
Pittsburgh	120.7	118.8	117.3	99.9	58.1
Portland, Oregon	122.2	121.6	118.6	101.5	58.3

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 202.5

2/ Rents priced bimonthly.

3/ Foods, fuels, and a few other items priced monthly; rents and other commodities and services priced quarterly.

4/ May 1950.

5/ June 1950.

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index — Percent changes from August 1957 to September 1957
U.S. city average and five cities priced monthly
All items and commodity groups

City	All items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Trans- portation	Medical care	Personal care	Reading and recreation	Other goods & services
United States city average	0.1	- 0.8	0.5	0.7	0	0.3	0.2	0.6	0
Chicago	.2	-.9	.7	2.1	- 1.1	.1	.2	2.5	0.1
Detroit	-.2	-.5	-.2	.5	-.9	0	-.2	1.1	0
Los Angeles	.7	.4	.7	1.3	1.2	0	-.2	1.0	.2
New York	-.3	-.9	-.1	.8	-.4	0	.1	.3	-.1
Philadelphia	.2	-.7	.9	1.6	.2	0	0	.3	.1

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
September 1957 indexes and percent changes, June 1957 to September 1957
U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in September 1957

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Balti- more	Chicago	Cincin- nati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	St. Louis	San Francisco
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	121.1	122.2	121.7	124.3	120.9	122.8	122.0	118.3	121.9	122.1	123.5
Food -----	117.0	115.4	118.1	114.0	119.7	118.7	119.4	116.6	120.7	117.8	119.4
Food at home -----	115.5	114.5	114.9	111.8	118.3	117.0	116.4	114.2	118.5	114.5	117.7
Cereals and bakery products --	131.2	124.2	127.0	123.2	131.8	124.8	139.7	135.2	133.0	124.6	140.1
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	110.3	112.2	110.4	102.8	112.8	108.1	113.5	109.8	112.4	106.4	112.6
Dairy products -----	113.1	113.6	111.9	111.7	114.6	112.2	109.4	114.5	117.4	105.5	116.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	114.8	120.8	115.1	113.4	119.9	124.2	113.0	107.4	121.9	120.3	117.2
Other foods at home -----	115.0	107.4	114.1	119.5	120.1	117.5	113.9	114.1	114.1	122.2	113.2
Housing -----	126.3	130.2	121.1	136.1	124.2	128.6	131.0	122.0	121.7	125.0	125.3
Rent -----	135.7	136.3	131.8	161.1	140.8	--	144.3	--	123.8	143.0	139.9
Gas and electricity -----	113.7	119.4	101.4	114.6	122.8	113.2	118.0	111.1	103.4	103.8	136.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	136.8	121.5	134.6	139.7	140.0	129.5	--	144.1	134.0	150.0	--
Housefurnishings -----	104.8	109.9	100.7	102.3	98.5	108.9	103.8	105.1	110.3	104.6	105.7
Household operation -----	128.3	135.8	121.6	132.9	133.2	118.8	129.7	126.0	127.8	131.5	119.9
Apparel -----	107.3	113.8	108.3	111.5	107.3	104.3	108.6	106.7	107.8	105.3	107.5
Men's and boys' -----	109.3	114.5	106.2	116.2	108.4	110.4	112.7	108.7	107.1	108.3	108.6
Women's and girls' -----	99.8	107.0	104.7	102.0	99.8	93.6	100.4	98.5	102.7	96.6	100.6
Footwear -----	128.1	136.2	126.3	131.5	134.4	123.9	129.2	129.2	126.2	126.2	131.2
Other apparel -----	92.3	93.3	97.4	96.9	90.4	87.0	84.8	96.1	94.5	96.5	90.3
Transportation -----	135.9	132.3	147.8	143.7	132.4	131.7	131.5	137.1	139.8	144.4	150.7
Public -----	181.1	188.3	187.3	194.3	182.1	153.9	154.8	189.0	187.4	205.3	182.6
Private -----	125.5	123.0	129.9	124.9	121.0	127.3	127.5	117.6	119.2	124.6	137.4
Medical care -----	139.0	132.9	144.8	141.7	140.4	146.7	131.0	129.4	140.8	154.9	137.8
Personal care -----	125.1	128.2	119.3	126.8	127.8	129.7	128.9	116.4	130.6	127.7	120.0
Reading and recreation -----	113.3	113.8	125.1	119.5	107.0	111.5	102.1	116.2	117.0	96.9	113.1
Other goods and services -----	126.7	132.0	131.6	121.2	123.5	135.7	123.5	126.1	128.6	126.4	124.1
Percent change from June 1957 to September 1957											
All items -----	0.7	0.8	0.4	1.1	1.0	0.2	0.8	0.3	1.5	0.7	0.6
Food -----	.7	1.5	.5	.4	.8	-.2	1.4	.9	1.8	.9	1.0
Food at home -----	.7	1.9	.4	.2	.7	-.3	1.6	.5	1.6	.8	.8
Cereals and bakery products --	.5	-.1	-.1	.2	.2	-.1	1.9	0	.3	-.4	0
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	3.2	2.7	2.7	2.2	2.4	3.1	6.3	2.2	3.2	2.0	2.6
Dairy products -----	2.8	.4	-.6	3.6	-.2	4.2	3.4	5.7	3.3	5.5	6.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	-9.5	-1.9	-5.9	-9.4	-6.3	-13.9	-8.3	-11.2	-4.5	-8.2	-10.4
Other foods at home -----	5.0	5.5	3.7	3.4	5.1	4.5	2.8	5.0	4.4	4.2	4.9
Housing -----	.6	.5	-.3	1.0	.7	0	.8	.1	1.4	.3	.3
Rent -----	.5	.1	.3	1/2	.9	--	1/6	--	1/2	.8	.5
Gas and electricity -----	1.2	0	1.1	.5	4.5	.7	0	0	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	1.1	0	-3.6	2.1	6.7	.2	--	.1	4.6	4.7	--
Housefurnishings -----	.2	.5	-.4	.5	-.6	-.4	.7	.1	.3	.7	-1.4
Household operation -----	.5	.7	0	.5	.8	.8	.2	.4	-.2	.1	.3
Apparel -----	.7	1.3	2.9	2.0	2.2	.1	1.1	.8	3.3	1.0	.2
Men's and boys' -----	.2	1.0	1.0	.7	2.0	-.7	1.5	-.2	2.2	1.0	-.5
Women's and girls' -----	1.3	1.7	5.8	5.2	3.2	.8	.8	1.8	6.1	1.2	.6
Footwear -----	.2	.9	-.6	.2	0	.3	.7	.5	1.8	.2	.5
Other apparel -----	.4	.5	2.2	1.3	2.4	-.7	1.1	.5	1.9	1.6	0
Transportation -----	.4	-1.1	.7	3.2	1.9	-.5	-.9	-.9	.1	1.0	.6
Public -----	2.4	14.6	0	15.9	10.4	5.6	0	0	0	8.6	0
Private -----	.1	-3.7	.9	.3	.7	-1.5	-1.0	-1.3	0	-.7	.7
Medical care -----	.8	.5	0	.3	.2	.3	.5	-.1	.1	.3	.4
Personal care -----	.7	0	.2	.5	.6	-.5	-.2	.8	.3	.3	.4
Reading and recreation -----	1.3	1.5	.5	2.9	.7	.9	.7	.8	1.2	.8	-.9
Other goods and services -----	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.1	1.5	7.1	1.9	.6	1.5	1.1	2.4

1/ Change from July 1957 to September 1957.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 September 1957 indexes and percent changes, August 1957 to September 1957
 U.S. city average and 20 large cities
 [1947-49=100]

City	Total food		Total food at home		Cereals and bakery products		Meats, poultry, and fish		Dairy products		Fruits and vegetables		Other foods at home	
	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change
U.S. city average ---	117.0	- 0.8	115.5	- 0.9	131.2	0.2	110.3	- 1.4	113.1	1.4	114.8	- 5.4	115.0	1.1
Atlanta -----	115.4	- .3	114.5	- .3	124.2	.2	112.2	- 2.9	113.6	3.0	120.8	- 1.5	107.4	1.5
Baltimore -----	118.1	- .3	114.9	- .5	127.0	.2	110.4	- 1.7	111.9	- .5	115.1	- .1	114.1	.4
Boston -----	117.4	- .1	115.6	- .1	131.2	.1	108.3	- .3	117.8	1.5	115.9	- 2.9	111.3	1.2
Chicago -----	114.0	- .9	111.8	- 1.1	123.2	.5	102.8	- 2.2	111.7	.5	113.4	- 4.3	119.5	1.2
Cincinnati -----	119.7	- .4	118.3	- .7	131.8	0	112.8	- 1.7	114.6	- .1	119.9	- 1.8	120.1	.7
Cleveland -----	115.0	- .8	113.1	- 1.0	129.1	4.1	106.1	- 1.9	107.4	3.0	111.1	- 8.4	118.3	.9
Detroit -----	118.7	- .5	117.0	- .7	124.8	- .1	108.1	- .5	112.2	.4	124.2	- 4.7	117.5	1.2
Houston -----	114.7	- .5	112.8	- .9	121.4	0	105.8	- 1.5	112.3	.3	117.3	- 3.6	112.7	.6
Kansas City -----	111.9	- 2.1	109.8	- 2.6	126.6	.2	108.3	- .4	102.0	- 5.5	108.5	- 8.9	107.2	.2
Los Angeles -----	119.4	.4	116.4	.7	139.7	.5	113.5	.5	109.4	3.7	113.0	- 1.0	113.9	.3
Minneapolis -----	115.5	- .1	114.4	0	130.1	.4	103.5	- 1.0	107.4	2.7	119.1	- 4.5	123.4	2.3
New York -----	116.6	- .9	114.2	- 1.5	135.2	.1	109.8	- 1.7	114.5	1.9	107.4	- 8.1	114.1	.8
Philadelphia -----	120.7	- .7	118.5	- 1.0	133.0	.2	112.4	- 1.4	117.4	.3	121.9	- 4.2	114.1	.8
Pittsburgh -----	118.3	- .5	116.9	- .6	129.3	0	109.0	- 1.3	114.1	2.0	114.9	- 4.9	124.6	1.3
Portland, Oreg. -----	117.7	- 1.1	116.3	- 1.4	134.7	0	112.1	- 2.7	117.2	0	107.3	- 2.6	117.0	- 1.0
St. Louis -----	117.8	- .3	114.5	- .7	124.6	.4	106.4	- 2.5	105.5	2.7	120.3	- 3.1	122.2	1.2
San Francisco -----	119.4	1.0	117.7	.7	140.1	.1	112.6	- 1.2	116.5	6.1	117.2	- .3	113.2	.4
Scranton -----	113.4	- 2.3	113.1	- 2.7	127.1	.1	109.8	- 2.6	113.4	2.6	105.3	- 14.7	112.0	.8
Seattle -----	118.1	- .8	117.2	- 1.0	140.6	.1	111.6	- .6	118.7	.3	112.6	- 4.5	113.3	- .4
Washington, D.C. -----	118.3	- 1.4	116.3	- 1.7	128.9	- .7	108.6	- 2.3	116.6	0	117.1	- 6.3	116.0	1.2

TABLE 7: Consumer Price Index -- Average retail prices of selected foods
 U.S. city average

Food and unit	September 1957	August 1957	Food and unit	September 1957	August 1957
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.8	54.8	Peaches * ----- 1b.	17.5	16.1
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.8	12.7	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.	21.1	24.7
Rice ----- 1b.	17.6	17.5	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		4.4
Bolled oats ----- 20 oz.	22.1	22.2	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	56.1	58.6
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	23.2	23.2	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	13.3	17.5
Bread, white ----- 1b.	18.9	18.9	Onions ----- 1b.	8.2	9.3
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.1	29.1	Carrots ----- 1b.	16.7	16.0
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.7	24.6	Lettuce ----- head	18.3	21.9
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- 1b.	14.4	14.2
Round steak ----- 1b.	98.0	98.1	Cabbage ----- 1b.	8.4	8.4
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	55.1	54.0	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	19.9	21.7
Rib roast ----- 1b.	76.6	76.0	Beans, green ----- 1b.	19.7	20.8
Hamburger ----- 1b.	44.1	44.3	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	119.1	118.5	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	33.8	34.1
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	90.8	92.9	Peaches ----- #2 can	34.7	34.8
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	85.4	87.5	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.2	34.1
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	64.3	66.6	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.0	26.0
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	72.7	72.6	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.1	17.1
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	59.8	59.3	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.5	21.6
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	45.7	45.5	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.1	15.0
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	47.2	49.7	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.1	10.0
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	42.9	43.2	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	46.6	46.6	Prunes ----- 1b.	33.3	33.9
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	62.5	62.5	Beans ----- 1b.	16.3	16.1
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8 1/2 oz.	32.1	32.1	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.3	12.5
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.8	23.3	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.6	14.7
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.3	24.8	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.1	27.1
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.6	29.5	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	21.7	21.8
Butter ----- 1b.	74.6	73.7	Coffee ----- 1b. can	99.3	101.5
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.8	57.8	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	78.2	83.0
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	14.7	14.7	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.7	23.7
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	27.1	27.0
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	96.9	97.6
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	25.7	25.5	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.7	29.6
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	18.0	17.7	Lard ----- 1b.	23.0	22.9
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.7	19.6	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.4	37.3
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	24.0	24.1	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	53.7	53.6
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	55.6	55.6
Apples ----- 1b.	14.5	(1/)	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	24.9	24.9
Bananas ----- 1b.	17.8	18.6	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.4	27.3
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	63.9	61.3	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1b.	18.0	18.1	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	64.9	59.6
Grapefruit * ----- each			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.8	8.8

* Priced only in season.
 1/ Not available.

TABLE A: Consumer Price Index—Revised indexes for special groups of commodities and services, December 1952 to date 1/ (1947-49=100)

Year and month	All commodities	All commodities less food	Durable commodities	Nondurable commodities less food	All services 2/	All services less rent 3/
1952: December-----	111.6	109.8	113.8	109.1	121.9	122.5
1953: Average-----	111.3	110.0	112.6	110.1	124.2	124.6
March-----	110.7	110.0	113.4	109.7	122.7	123.3
June-----	111.5	109.8	112.8	109.6	123.8	124.3
September-----	111.7	110.2	112.3	110.7	125.4	125.6
December-----	111.0	110.0	110.9	111.1	126.2	126.3
1954: Average-----	110.2	108.6	108.3	110.6	127.5	127.7
March-----	110.6	109.4	110.1	110.9	126.8	126.9
June-----	110.8	108.6	108.7	110.4	127.3	127.5
September-----	109.7	107.7	106.2	110.4	128.1	128.4
December-----	109.1	108.1	107.0	110.4	128.5	128.7
1955: Average-----	109.0	107.5	105.1	110.6	129.8	130.1
March-----	109.0	107.6	106.2	110.2	129.0	129.2
June-----	108.9	107.0	104.7	109.9	129.6	129.9
September-----	109.2	107.3	103.7	111.1	130.4	130.8
December-----	108.7	108.1	105.1	111.6	130.9	131.3
1956: Average-----	110.1	108.9	105.1	113.0	132.6	133.0
January-----	108.3	107.7	104.2	111.5	131.2	131.6
February-----	108.3	108.0	104.3	111.9	131.3	131.7
March-----	108.5	108.1	104.3	112.1	131.2	131.6
April-----	108.7	108.0	104.0	112.2	131.5	131.9
May-----	109.3	108.1	104.2	112.1	131.8	132.2
June-----	110.3	108.0	103.8	112.3	132.3	132.7
July-----	111.2	108.4	104.1	112.8	132.9	133.2
August-----	110.6	108.7	104.5	113.0	133.3	133.8
September-----	111.0	109.4	104.8	113.9	133.6	134.1
October-----	111.7	110.6	107.4	114.3	133.7	134.2
November-----	111.8	111.0	107.9	114.6	133.9	134.4
December-----	111.8	111.1	108.0	114.7	134.4	134.9
1957: Average-----						
January-----	111.9	111.2	108.2	114.7	135.0	135.6
February-----	112.3	111.4	108.3	115.0	135.7	136.5
March-----	112.4	111.9	108.6	115.6	136.3	137.1
April-----	112.8	112.1	108.8	115.8	136.7	137.6
May-----	113.0	111.8	108.3	115.6	137.2	138.1
June-----	113.7	111.9	108.4	115.8	137.5	138.4
July-----	114.4	112.2	108.2	116.3	137.9	138.9
August-----	114.6	112.1	108.4	116.0	138.3	139.3
September-----	114.5	112.6	108.6	116.7	138.8	139.8

1/ Total Shelter was formerly included in the index of All Services and Shelter, but individual items of Shelter were not included in any other commodity or service classification. The revised indexes shown above are the result of the distribution of the Shelter items to commodities or services, as indicated below, from March 1953 forward. Indexes for dates prior to March 1953 were not affected by the revision.

Durable commodities

Water heaters
Kitchen sinks
Sink faucets
Porch flooring

Nondurable commodities

House paint
Paint brush

Services

Rent
Home purchase
Real estate taxes
Mortgage interest
Property insurance
Repainting garage
Repainting rooms
Reshingling roof
Refinishing floors

2/ Replaces All Services and Shelter.
3/ Replaces All Services less Shelter.

Labor D.C. - BLS58-1018

Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the average changes in prices of goods and services typically bought by city families of wage earners and clerical workers. It is based on prices of about 300 items which were selected so that their price changes would represent the movement of prices of all goods and services purchased by wage and clerical families; they include all of the important items in family spending. Prices for these items are obtained in 46 cities which were chosen to represent all urban places in the United States; they are collected from grocery and department stores, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments which wage-earner and clerical-worker families patronize.

Prices of foods, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all 46 cities. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the 5 largest cities and every 3 months in other cities. Almost all prices are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each city are averaged together with weights which represent their importance in family spending. City data are then combined in the total index with weights based on the 1950 populations of cities they represent. Index numbers are computed on the base 1947-49 = 100.

The national index (the United States city average) includes prices from the 20 large cities for which separate indexes are published in this report, as well as from the following 26 medium-sized and small cities:

Anna, Illinois	Huntington, W. Virginia	Pulaski, Virginia
Camden, Arkansas	Laconia, New Hampshire	Ravenna, Ohio
Canton, Ohio	Lodi, California	Rawlins, Wyoming
Charleston, W. Virginia	Lynchburg, Virginia	San Jose, California
Evansville, Indiana	Madill, Oklahoma	Sandpoint, Idaho
Garrett, Indiana	Madison, Wisconsin	Shawnee, Oklahoma
Glendale, Arizona	Middlesboro, Kentucky	Sherandoah, Iowa
Grand Forks, N. Dakota	Middletown, Connecticut	Youngstown, Ohio
Grand Island, Nebraska	Newark, Ohio	

Comparisons of city indexes show only that prices in one city changed more or less than in another. The city indexes cannot be used to measure differences in price levels or in living costs between cities.

A description of the index is contained in BLS Bulletin 1140, "The Consumer Price Index: A Layman's Guide," which may be purchased for 20 cents at any Bureau of Labor Statistics regional office (addresses below) or from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. A more technical description of the index appears in BLS Bulletin 1168, "Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series." Reprints of chapter 9, pertaining to the CPI, are available on request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington or at any of its regional offices.

Historical series of index numbers for the United States city average and for 20 large cities are available upon request. These series include index numbers for All Items, Food, Apparel, and Rent for periods from 1913 to date; and for other groups of goods and services from 1947 to date.

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OCCUPATIONAL WAGE SURVEYS

(BLS Bulletins 1202-1 through 17)

The U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has released the last of this year's occupational wage surveys for major labor markets. The studies cover 17 areas and were conducted during the winter 1956-57. The individual bulletins provide earnings information on about 60 jobs selected from several categories: Office clerical, professional and technical, maintenance and powerplant, and custodial and material movement.

In addition to areawide averages and distributions of workers by earnings classes for each job, information is provided wherever possible by major industry division, including manufacturing, public utilities, finance, trade, and services.

Also presented for all areas except Memphis and Minneapolis-St. Paul are data for paid holidays; paid vacations; scheduled weekly hours; health, insurance, and pension plans; minimum entrance rates; and shift differential practices.

The areas covered, survey date, bulletin number, and price are as follows:

			Cents
Atlanta	April 1957	1202-16	25
Birmingham	January 1957	1202-10	20
Boston	September 1956	1202-4	25
Buffalo	September 1956	1202-2	25
Chicago	April 1957	1202-15	25
Cleveland	October 1956	1202-3	25
Dallas	October 1956	1202-5	25
Kansas City	December 1956	1202-6	25
Los Angeles-Long Beach	March 1957	1202-11	25
Memphis	February 1957	1202-13	20
Minneapolis-St. Paul	March 1957	1202-14	20
New York City	April 1957	1202-17	25
Philadelphia	November 1956	1202-7	25
Pittsburgh	December 1956	1202-9	25
Portland (Oreg.)	April 1957	1202-12	25
San Francisco-Oakland	January 1957	1202-8	25
Seattle	August 1956	1202-1	25

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